

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

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USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 3021

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: TEXT OF CHAIRMANS INFORMAL REMARKS ON DATA  
AT MAY 30 SPC MEETING

THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF SPEAKING NOTES FROM WHICH IMS REP READ AT  
MAY 30 DPC DISCUSSION OF DATA (SEE DEATILS SEPTTEL), AND WHICH HE  
SUBSEQUENTLY CIRCULATED.

BEGIN TEXT:

MBFR-DATA AND "DEFINITION" OF GROUND FORCES

1. PUBLISHED TODAY IS AC/276-D(74)5- THE WORKING GROUPS AGREED  
DATA. THIS UPDATES THE GROUND FORCE FIGURES TO 31.12.73. IT  
PROVIDES A GOOD, AGREED COUNT OF TOTAL AIR FORCE PERSONNEL  
FOR BOTH SIDES-AT THE SAME DATE. IT ANSWERS, AS FAR AS WE CAN  
WITHIN AGREED INTELLIGENCE-THE AD HOC GROUP QUESTIONS ON  
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PACT AND NATO FORCES IN COLOUR OF  
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UNIFORM RELATED TO TASKS. THERE ARE GAPS IN THAT INFORMATION.

2. IN VEIW OF THE AD HOC GROUP CONCERN ON "DEFINITIONS OF  
GROUND FORCES" THE MBFR STAFF GROUP HAVE PRODUCED A NOTE WHICH

EXPLAINS RATHER THAN DEFINES HOW WE APPROACH THE COUNT-AND THOSE ELEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES WHICH ARE COUNTED. YOU WILL SEE FROM THE NOTE HOW COMPLEX THIS PROCESS CAN BE- AND HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO SEEK PRECISE COMPARABILITY IN DEFINITIONS OR EVEN IN ASSESSING NUMBERS RELATED TO SUCH DEFINITIONS. THIS NOTE IS BEING CIRCULATED ON A PERSONAL BASIS-IN THE BELIEF THAT IT WILL HELP TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEMS AND HELP THIS COMMITTEE ANSWER THE AD HOC GROUPS REQUEST.

3. REVERTING TO DATA: MANY QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN PUT IN THIS COMMITTEE ON DATA. AS FAR AS NUMBERS ARE CONCERNED-THE WORKING GROUP REPORT ANSWERS THEM, LEAVING CERTAIN GREY AREAS OF DETAIL FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION.

THE WORKING GROUP DOES NOT ADDRESS THE MILITARY/TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ADOPTING OR USING THE NEW FIGURES. THEY ARE READY TO DO SO IF SO REQUESTED.

SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAVE ASKED QUESTIONS SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THOSE IMPLICATIONS. THE MBFR MILITARY STAFF GROUP, IN RESPONSE TO THOSE QUESTIONS, HAVE EXAMINED, ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS, SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS- NOTABLY THOSE DERIVING FROM THREE POSSIBILITIES:

A. ADHERENCE TO THE EXISTING (ANNOUNCED) COMMON CEILING OF ABOUT 700,000.

B. ADOPTION OF THE NEW GROUND FORCE FIGURES ON THE BASIS THAT THE AGREED NATO LIMITATION OF 10 PER CENT ON GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS WILL REMAIN INVIOABLE.

C. THE POSSIBLE INJECTION INTO THE EQUATION OF CERTAIN AIRMEN DOING JOBS DONE BY SOME SOLDIERS. SPEAKING STRICTLY PERSONALLY-AND AT STAFF LEVEL ONLY-IT SEEMS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY VIEWPOINT THAT WE NEED DECISIONS ON A SERIES OF ISSUES BEFORE WE CAN DO FURTHER USEFUL MILITARY STAFF WORK AND, WITH MC DIRECTION, GIVE USEFUL ADVICE.

FIRST, WE NEED TO KNOW WHETHER THE NEW FIGURES IN AC/276-D(74)5 ARE ACCEPTED, SO FAR AS THEY GO. IN THAT CONNECTION, I WOULD MAKE TWO POINTS:

ONE-THE FIGURES HAVE BEEN COMPILED ON THE BEST AND MOST UP TO DATE AGREED DATA AVAILABLE. ON THE BASIS OF THE ASSUMPTIONS  
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USED-WE COULD NOT NOW SUBSTANTIAITE ANY OTHER FIGURES.

TWO-WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER IT IS NECESSARY TO FILL IN THE GAPS IN AC/276-D(74)5. A DECISION ON THAT IS NEEDED. IF THE ANSWER IS AFFIRMATIVE, THEN WE SHALL PROBABLY HAVE TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO THE INTELLIGENCE STAFFS TOGETHER, OUTSIDE AND ADDITIONAL TO THE NORMAL AND AGREED PROGRAMME FOR THIS YEAR. IF THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, NATIONAL AGREEMENT WILL BE NECESSARY AT FAIRLY HIGH LEVEL.

THE SECOND ISSUE IS WHETHER THE NEW FIGURES ARE TO BE ADOPTED FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES. HERE THERE ARE THREE SEPARATE ELEMENTS:

- THE REVISED GROUND FIGURES
- THE TOTAL AIR FORCE MANPOWER
- THE IDENTIFIED AIR MANPOWER DOING JOBS DONE BY SOME ARMIES

IN THAT CONNECTION, WE HAVE PREPARED, AT STAFF LEVEL, A NOTE ON A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS. I AM CIRCULATING COPIES OF THAT NOTE-STRICTLY AS A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION AND WITHOUT COMMITMENT BY THE MC OR MNCS- IN THE BELIEF THAT IT MAY HELP TO FOCUS ON SOME OF THE IMPORTANT MILITARY ASPECTS INCLUDED IN THE IMPLICATIONS OF ADOPTING AND USING THE NEW FIGURES IN NEGOTIATIONS.

THERE IS A THIRD ELEMENT, ON WHICH DECISIONS ARE NEEDED BEFORE FURTHER USEFUL MILITARY STAFF WORK CAN BE DONE: THAT IS THE POLICY ON WHETHER SOME OR ALL OF THE NEW FIGURES ARE TO BE RELEASED TO THE ADHOC GROUP AND IF SO, HOW AND IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES THEY MAY BE USED IN NEGOTIATIONS TO FURTHER ALLIED AIMS.

IN THAT CONTEXT- I WOULD SEPARATE THE TWO ISSUES- OF FORMAL RELEASE TO THE AD HOC GROUP AND OF USE WITH THE OTHER SIDE IN NEGOTIATIONS.

ON THE RELEASE TO THE AD HOC GROUP, IT IS IMPORTANT, IN THE MILITARY STAFF VIEW, THAT, IF GROSS FIGURES ARE GIVEN TO THE AHG, THAT GROUP SHOULD BE FULLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY INFORMED, WITH AS MUCH PRECISION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION AS IS NECESSARY FOR THEM TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPOSITION OF GROSS FIGURES. UNLESS THEY HAVE THAT BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE, THEY WILL BE AT LEAST UNSURE OF THEIR OWN STRENGTH-AND WE HERE AT HQ NATO WOULD BE UNSURE OF THEIRS.

THE QUESTION OF RELEASING FIGURES TO THE OTHER SIDE IS A SEPARATE ISSUE. FROM THE MILITARY POINT OF VIEW, IT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT THAT FIGURES ARE NOT GIVEN IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY ASSIST THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES OF THE PACT. ESSENTIALLY,  
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THIS WOULD BE A MATTER OF AVOIDING THE USE OF DETAILED FIGURES RELATED TO UNITS AND THEIR FORMATIONS AND LOCATIONS: AND SIMILARLY AVOIDING RELEASE OF BREAKDOWN OF GROSS FIGURES FOR FUNCTIONAL ELEMENTS INTO NATIONAL COMPONENTS.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, POLITICAL AND TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS- NOT FOR THE MILITARY STAFFS TO ADDRESS.

IN SUM, THEN, WE THE MILITARY STAFFS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW:

FIRST, WHETHER THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE ACCEPTS THE WORKING GROUP FIGURES- 7,000?

SECOND, WHETHER THEY ARE TO BE RELEASED TO VIENNA.

THIRD, WHETHER THE GAPS IN DETAIL IN THAT REPORT NEED TO BE FILLED.

FOURTH, WHETHER SOME NATO AIRMEN (34,000) ARE TO BE REGARDED AS FALLING WITHIN GROUND FORCES, AND ADDRESSED IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS.

FIFTH, WHAT VIEW THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE TAKES ON ADHERENCE TO THE ANNOUNCED AIM OF THE COMMON CEILING IN GROUND FORCES AT ABOUT 700,000; AND ON THE DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE CRUCIAL WORD "ABOUT".

IF THE AIR COULD BE CLARIFIED ON THOSE ISSUES, WE COULD PUT THE SITUATION COMPREHENSICELY TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE. END TEXT. RUMSFELD

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